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NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Paul McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the guilty plea today of Ronnie Lee White, Jr. (age 36) and his wife, Puanani J. White (age 30), both of Fredericksburg, Virginia. Mr. White pled guilty to conspiracy to commit health care fraud and Mrs. White plead guilty to misprision of a felony. The pleas were taken by the Honorable Henry E. Hudson, United States District Judge. Sentencing is scheduled for April 16, 2004.

Mr. White faces a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000 and full restitution. Mrs. White faces a maximum penalty of 3 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000 and full restitution. To date, authorities have seized in excess of \$290,999.00 from the defendants.

Also announcing the plea are Virginia Attorney General Jerry Kilgore and Donald W. Thompson, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Field Division.

The Whites were indicted by a grand jury in Richmond on November 4, 2003, on charges of conspiracy to commit health care fraud in relation to their business, Healthy Transitions, LLC, a company allegedly in the business of providing Medicaid recipients with Intensive In-Home Services for Children and Adolescents. The Whites admitted that Healthy Transitions defrauded the federal Medicaid program and the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services out of \$2,500,000.00 by, among other things, fraudulently billing for services that were not provided to recipients.

Mr. McNulty stated: "Any fraud committed against the government is a serious crime. This case is especially egregious because money was diverted from children who required intensive counseling services to remain in their homes. We will aggressively prosecute anyone who betrays the trust vested in them to provide public service."

Mr. Kilgore added: "This case highlights the importance of cracking down on those who defraud the Medicaid system. These people were supposed to be helping children who have the most difficult paths in life. It is difficult to imagine what damage these criminals have done, however, bringing them to justice can only help improve the lives of those who need legitimate

assistance."

Assistant United States Attorney Gregg R. Nivala and Special Assistant United States Attorney Steve Buck prosecuted the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office. The case was being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and by the Virginia Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

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